

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has requested copies of the Swiss references cited on page 1 of the specification. Applicant has requested copies of the references and will forward them to the Examiner at a later date.

The specification has been objected to for containing informalities. Accordingly, the specification has been amended herein to include section headers in upper case, as requested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-17 have been cancelled herein, thus rendering the objections and rejections to such claims moot. Claims 18-37 have been newly added to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. According to the claimed invention, a step of assembling two or more parts of different materials is performed by injection molding of at least one of the parts. As an example, an acoustical conductor of an outside-the-ear hearing device is not separately manufactured and then fixed or mounted to the hearing device shell, but is directly injection molded upon the shell. The step of assembling can thereby be simultaneously performed with making the second part.

In contrast to the claimed invention, Aebi et al. (U.S. 5,530,763), which was cited by the Examiner in the Office Action of April 1, 2003, discloses a diaphragm (2) for a hearing aid which is fixed to two support elements around two end faces. Aebi et al. is merely directed to fixating, which prior to the teachings of the present invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would have interpreted as gluing, welding, bonding, soldering, etc. With respect to the amplifier electronics, Aebi et al. (col. 4, line 40) states, "it can be molded into the shaped member without any special fastening to the

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skeleton." However, such amplifier electronics is clearly not injection molded, as required by the claimed invention. Rather, the molding addressed in Aebi et al. is introduced into liquified material of the skeleton. Moreover, the addressed two-component molding in col. 5, line 3 of Aebi et al. is not equivalent to the claimed injection molding of two parts, each of a separate material. The two-component molding addressed in Aebi et al. means one material to be molded consists from two separate components which enter a chemical reaction when mixed so as to initiate hardening. Accordingly, for at least the aforementioned reasons, it is submitted that Aebi et al. does not anticipate or obviate the claimed invention.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 32955.

Respectfully submitted,

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